



BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA939

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Meeting of the Atlantic  
Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National  
Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: NMFS will hold a 3-day Atlantic Highly Migratory  
Species (HMS) Advisory Panel (AP) meeting in March 2012. The  
intent of the meeting is to consider options for the  
conservation and management of Atlantic HMS. The meeting is  
open to the public.

DATES: The AP meeting will be held March 13, 2012, through  
March 15, 2012.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel,  
8777 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jenni Wallace or Margo Schulze-  
Haugen at (301) 427-8503.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery  
Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq., as  
amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act, Public Law 104-297,

provided for the establishment of an AP to assist in the collection and evaluation of information relevant to the development of any Fishery Management Plan (FMP) or FMP amendment for Atlantic HMS. NMFS consults with and considers the comments and views of AP members when preparing and implementing FMPs or FMP amendments for Atlantic tunas, swordfish, billfish, and sharks.

The AP has previously consulted with NMFS on: Amendment 1 to the Billfish FMP (April 1999); the HMS FMP (April 1999); Amendment 1 to the HMS FMP (December 2003); the Consolidated HMS FMP (October 2006); and Amendments 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 to the Consolidated HMS FMP (April and October 2008, February and September 2009, May 2010, and September 2011); among other things.

At the March 2012 AP meeting, NMFS plans to discuss overall bluefin tuna management; revitalizing the swordfish fishery; shark management measures such as rebuilding scalloped hammerhead, dusky, and blacknose sharks and catch shares; and items contained in the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that published on June 1, 2009 (74 FR 26174), which considered a variety of potential management options/measures for HMS fisheries. The meeting will also include updates on the 2011 ICCAT meeting and any implementation requirements; electronic

dealer reporting; smoothhound shark management; and recreational monitoring methods for Atlantic HMS fisheries.

Additional information on the venue and an agenda will be provided at a later date.

#### Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Jenni Wallace at (301) 427-8503 at least 7 days prior to the meeting.

Dated: January 24, 2012.

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James P. Burgess,  
Acting Director,  
Office of Sustainable Fisheries,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.

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